

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO TRANSFER TO
THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT THE QUARTERMASTER EXPERI-
MENTAL FUEL STATION AT PIKE COUNTY, MO.

JUNE 12, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WICKERSHAM, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4260]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4260) to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the Department of the Interior the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station at Pike County, Mo., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer the custody of the Missouri Ordnance Works (now the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station) to the Bureau of Mines, in order that that agency may continue to conduct experiments and research at that plant in the production of synthetic liquid fuels.

The plant in question was transferred to the custody of the Bureau of Mines, Department of Interior, by "letter of agreement" between the Army and the Bureau of Mines on December 23, 1947. Since that date the Bureau of Mines has spent approximately \$15 million in new additions and improvements to that facility for the conduct of its experiments, which are considered to be of major importance to the best interests of the Government.

Witnesses representing the Department of the Army testified that the facility was not now needed by the Department of the Army, nor was there any foreseeable possibility that it would be required by the Army. However, the proposed legislation contains a recovery clause in behalf of the Army in order that all eventualities may be covered.

The Bureau of the Budget interposes no objection to the presentation of the proposed legislation. The Department of the Army

and the Department of the Interior are mutually agreeable to the transfer of the property, as is evidenced by the letter of the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior, which is hereto attached and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., May 18, 1951.

Hon. SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington 25 D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is enclosed a proposed bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the Department of the Interior the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station, Pike County, Mo.

I respectfully request that the proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and I recommend that it be enacted.

By a "letter of agreement," signed by the Quartermaster General and accepted the 23d day of December 1947 by the Director of the Bureau of Mines, the custody of the Missouri Ordnance Works (now the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station) was transferred to the Bureau of Mines, pursuant to authority in Public Law 290, Seventy-eighth Congress (58 Stat. 190, 30 U. S. C. 321-325), the Synthetic Liquid Fuels Act, to conduct experiments and research at the plant in the production of synthetic liquid fuels.

Since March 15, 1947, the Department of the Interior, at its own expense, has maintained and operated the Missouri Ordnance Works, constructing two plants to demonstrate conversion of coal to synthetic liquid fuels. Both plants are tied in integrally with the facilities of the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station, and it would not be possible to operate either of them without using these facilities.

In a letter of April 29, 1949, from the Director of the Bureau of Mines to the Quartermaster General, it was suggested that the Army might desire to transfer full jurisdiction and control of the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station, without exchange of funds, to the Department of the Interior to further expand, make further changes, and more satisfactorily carry out its synthetic-liquid-fuel program, which in the light of the present world situation becomes more vital every day.

In a letter of July 17, 1950, the Secretary of the Army informed the Director of the Bureau of Mines that the Army had no objection to the transfer of the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station without reimbursement to the Department of the Interior.

In brief, both Departments are agreeable to the transfer of the property. It will not involve the expenditure of any funds, and it will be of great benefit to the Department of the Interior and the Nation as a whole in the development of synthetic liquid fuel.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised me that there would be no objection to the presentation of this proposed legislation for the consideration of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

MASTIN G. WHITE,
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

